MARVEL REMEMBERS

JOHN ROMITA

MARVEL 3

LGY#029

DAN WATTERS · GERMÁN PERALTA · MIKE SPICER

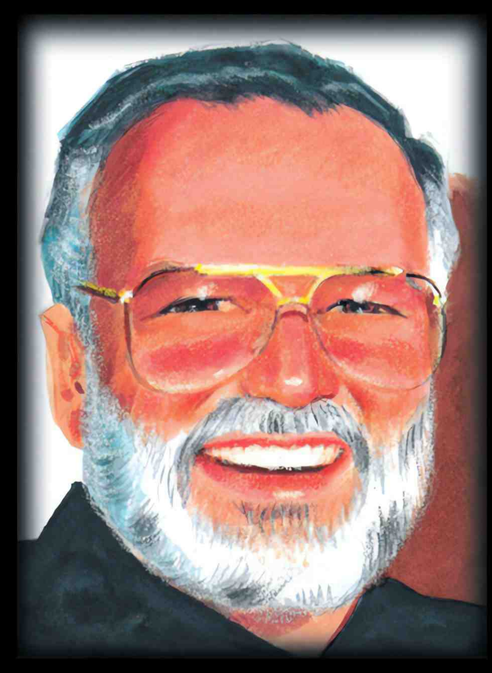
LOKI

A FRIENDLY REUNION WITH

WICCAN AND HULKLING

John Romita

1930 – 2023



Marvel mourns the passing of comic-book artist John Romita Sr., whose work on *Amazing Spider-Man* helped make the character a worldwide sensation. In his work as Marvel's art director, he designed the Punisher and Wolverine and served as mentor for countless artists during his decades-long tenure with the company.

Romita had a profound effect on everyone he met at Marvel. He was always kind and warm and served as an inspiration to all who knew him or followed his work. Romita helped build the Marvel Universe as we know it, and he will be greatly missed.

"John Romita Sr. was an incomparable artist who brought so many iconic Marvel characters to life on the page and set the tone and look of Marvel's comics for decades. His version of Spider-Man has inspired so many of us at Marvel Studios. Our thoughts are with his family and the generations of artists and fans who fell in love with the characters he drew."

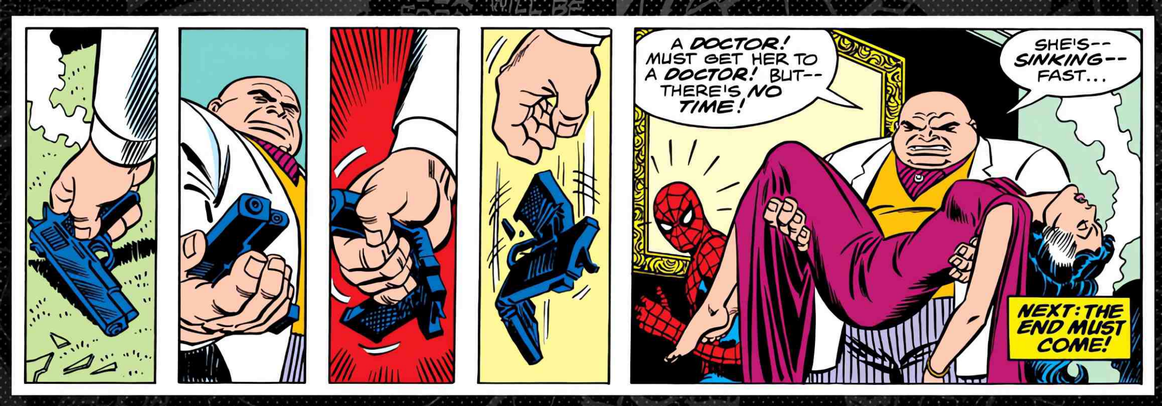
— KEVIN FEIGE

"I was recently able to fawn over some of John Romita Sr.'s original Spider-Man pages, and the word that kept popping into my mind as I marveled over his linework was 'timeless.' His style was such a departure from what had come before, which John did say made him nervous, but one that came to define the look of Peter, Spider-Man, MJ, Gwen and everyone else in their orbit. And the same was true for every Marvel character John designed, penciled and inked. Whether as an artist or art director, John's work influenced generations of comic book artists. With his passing, the comic industry loses a true legend, but just like his artwork, his legacy will remain timeless."

— C.B. CEBULSKI

"When you close your eyes and picture Spider-Man, you're probably picturing a John Romita Sr. Spider-Man. From his debut of the character in *Amazing Spider-Man #39*, the subsequent fifty issues of art, more than a hundred covers and the work he did on the newspaper strip, John defined Spidey for generations of people around the world. That would be enough for anyone else, but John was also an excellent art director, a fantastic father, a doting grandfather and a gentleman. All of us making Spider-Man comics, and Marvel Comics in general, work in his shadow and strive to live up to the example of the legend, Jazzy John Romita."

— NICK LOWE



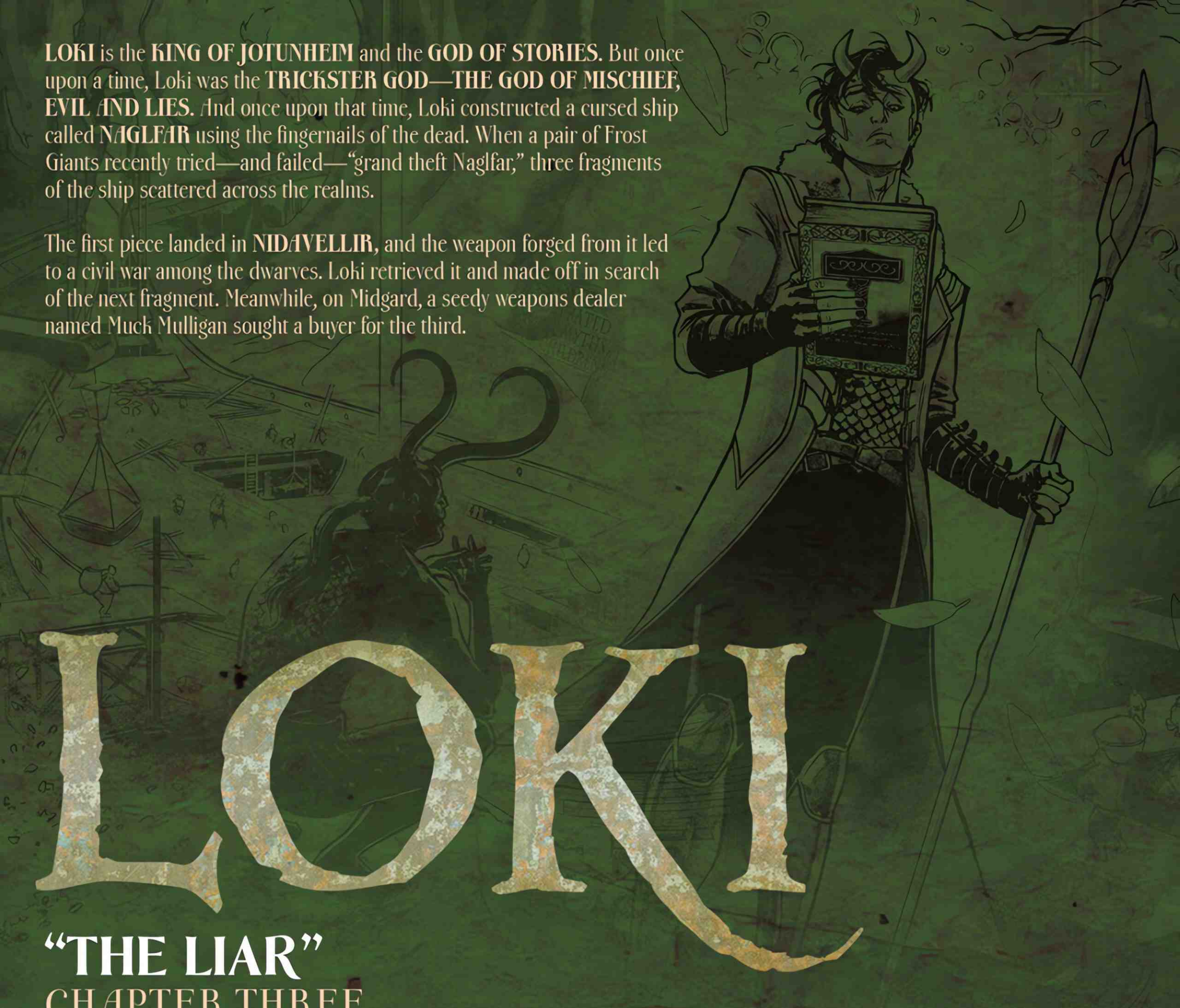
DECADES OF AMAZING WORK

John Romita wore many hats at Marvel. His most famous contribution was his run on *Amazing Spider-Man*, including the above cover to the series' landmark fiftieth issue. His association with the character would include drawing the cover of the famed wedding of Peter Parker and Mary Jane Watson, *Amazing Spider-Man Annual #21*, seen opposite top right. With Stan Lee, he started the Spider-Man newspaper strip, including the sequence with Kingpin from Sept. 25, 1977, seen opposite center. Behind the scenes, Romita was responsible for designing many of Marvel's most famous characters. At bottom opposite are Romita's costume designs for Black Widow and Wolverine.

"One of the highlights of my career was working with John Romita Sr. I couldn't believe that my 25-year-old self was working and interacting with him, and what made it even better was that he was so considerate and kind – something that has stuck with me ever since, among many other memories with him. It was one of the rare moments where you meet one of your heroes and he exceeds your expectations in every possible way.

His contributions to Marvel's pantheon and culture are immense, and he will be sorely missed. He was a great and kind man who truly made the world a better place. My deepest condolences to Virginia, Johnny and the Romita family."

— DAN BUCKLEY



LOKI is the **KING OF JOTUNHEIM** and the **GOD OF STORIES.** But once upon a time, Loki was the **TRICKSTER GOD—THE GOD OF MISCHIEF, EVIL AND LIES.** And once upon that time, Loki constructed a cursed ship called **NAGLFAR** using the fingernails of the dead. When a pair of Frost Giants recently tried—and failed—"grand theft Naglfar," three fragments of the ship scattered across the realms.

The first piece landed in **NIDAVELLIR,** and the weapon forged from it led to a civil war among the dwarves. Loki retrieved it and made off in search of the next fragment. Meanwhile, on Midgard, a seedy weapons dealer named Muck Mulligan sought a buyer for the third.

LOKI

"THE LIAR"
CHAPTER THREE

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LOKI CREATED BY STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER & JACK KIRBY

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He was a hero during the *Kree-Skrull War.*

Born with great psychic powers, he protected the Kree on the frozen planet *Kava,* which bordered Skrull space.

Again and again, he beat back the Skrulls, until eventually, they formed a great invasion force to destroy him.

So great and terrible was this invasion force that the hero fled--leaving his people to be slaughtered.

This is how the story goes.

Now, each year, the ancestors of Kava's survivors burn him in effigy in what has become a rather pleasant festival of music and fire and light.

All to ensure they will never forget to curse the name of *Ko-Mir the Coward.*

But we know what you're probably wondering...

...WHAT HAS ANY OF THIS GOT TO DO WITH LOKI?

THIS IS MORE LIKE IT.

A PARTY.

THEY'RE REALLY PROUD OF THE SUN, *HUH?*

KAVA TRAPPED A MIGRATING *GAS BALL* IN ITS ORBIT AFTER THE SLAUGHTER. WHICH EFFECTIVELY BECAME A PRIVATE SUN.

MEANING THE PLANET HAS ITS OWN CLIMATE.

THE PEOPLE HERE CONSIDERED IT A GIFT FROM THE PROGENITORS, SENDING THEM WARMTH AFTER THE WAR.

IT BRINGS THEM PEACE.

I BET. IT'S TOASTY HERE FOR BEING THIS CLOSE TO THE EDGE OF A GALAXY.

TELL ME, HAVE YOU INTRODUCED THE DELIGHTS OF *MICHELADAS* TO YOUR KREE/SKRULL EMPIRE YET, *HULKLING?*

LOKI. I APPRECIATE THAT YOU CAME TO ME RATHER THAN JUST *SNEAKING IN...*

...BUT YOUR PRESENCE MAKES THE WHOLE DAMN EMPIRE *UNCOMFORTABLE.*

YEAH. YOU SAID WE'RE LOOKING FOR SOME DEADLY PIECE OF *MAGICAL DRIFTWOOD* THAT WOULD BRING CHAOS AND MISERY TO THE REALM.

SO IF IT'S REALLY HERE, WE NEED TO FIND IT. LIKE, ASAP.

AW, BILLY, TEDDY, YOU SOUND SO...*KINGLY.* LOOK HOW FAR WE'VE COME. REMEMBER WHEN WE ALL SCAMPERED AROUND? THE "YOUNG AVENGERS"!

NOW WE'RE ALL KINGS AND PRINCES AND OH SO VERY IMPORTANT.

I'M IMPRESSED WITH US.

I THINK WE DESERVE MICHELADAS.

YOU SAID THIS MAGICAL DRIFTWOOD MIGHT BE SENTIENT. THAT IT'D FORM INTO A TERRIBLE WEAPON.

SO...IT'S PROBABLY NOT AT THIS BEACH PARTY, IS IT?

WHEN DID YOU SAY THAT SUN APPEARED? SOON AFTER KO-MIR THE COWARD VANISHED, *HMM?*

TELL ME, WICCAN, FELLOW FANBOY OF WITCHCRAFT AND TRICKERY--

--HAVE YOU ACTUALLY LOOKED STRAIGHT AT IT?

LOKI, PLEASE TELL ME THAT I DON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN TO THE KING OF JOTUNHEIM WHY HE SHOULDN'T BE LOOKING DIRECTLY AT A SUN.

BILLY. LOOK AT THE SUN. LOOK AT IT ***MAGICALLY.***

SEE WHAT THE *NAGLFAR* SHARD HAS ***CLOAKED*** WITHIN IT.

WHAT ARE YOU...?

OH ϟ%&@.

THIS IS...BAD.

SUBOPTIMAL, YES.

WHAT'S GOING ON, BILLY?

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

"IT'S HIM.

"IT'S KO-MIR."

"THE LIAR"

Chapter Three

DAN WATTERS.....writer
GERMÁN PERALTA.....artist
MIKE SPICER.....color artist
VC's TRAVIS LANHAM..... letterer
MICHELLE MARCHESE.....asst. editor
WIL MOSS.....editor

YOUR PIECE OF *DRIFTWOOD* HAS CAUSED THIS?

HOW'S THAT EVEN POSSIBLE? THAT SUN'S BEEN THERE FOR MILLENNIA.

THE NAGLFAR IS A MAGICAL SHIP I BUILT AT THE DAWN OF TIME, WHICH RECENTLY CRASHED AGAINST THE WORLD TREE ITSELF.

A PLACE WHERE ALL REALMS, DIMENSIONS AND ERAS CONVERGE.

SOLID CHANCE THE PIECE OF DEBRIS WAS CAUGHT IN A CURRENT OF THE TIMESTREAM, DRAGGED UNDER THE PRESENT AND POPPED UP AROUND HERE ALL THOSE YEARS AGO.

AW, IT DID TAKE LOKI A WHILE TO FIGURE IT OUT...

...BUT HE'S GOT IT.

KO-MIR WAS CERTAIN HE WAS DESTINED TO DIE AT THE HANDS OF THE SKRULL ARMY THAT WAS COMING FOR HIS HEAD.

HE MADE HIS PEACE WITH THE PROGENITORS AND STEPPED OUT TO FACE THE ENEMY.

HE WOULD BE GLAD TO DIE FOR HIS WORLD AND HIS PEOPLE. HE WAS THAT SORT OF HERO.

THEN A PIECE OF *US* CAME.

DEBRIS, AS LOKI SAID, BUOYED THROUGH TIME AND SPACE.

SOME ADVANCE ATTACK BY THE SKRULLS, THE HERO FEARED, AND SO RACED TO FIND IT. INSTEAD, WHAT HE FOUND SEEMED A GIFT FROM THE HEAVENS.

HE DID NOT KNOW HOW, BUT HE COULD TELL THAT THIS ARTIFACT COULD BE REMADE IN HIS HANDS--SHAPED INTO WHATEVER HE DESIRED.

PERHAPS EVEN SOMETHING POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DETER THE ARMY ALMOST UPON HIM. A ***WEAPON.***

AND SO THE HERO TOOK THIS PIECE OF US AND TURNED IT INTO A *BOMB.*

A *WORLD* DESTROYER.

A *PLANET* SHREDDER.

AND WHEN HE LOOKED UPON WHAT HE HAD CREATED, HE WAS TERRIFIED.

KO-MIR WAS NO FOOL. HE COULD SENSE THE DARK ENERGIES RADIATING FROM US. HE KNEW NO GOOD WOULD COME OF UNLEASHING HIS GREAT AND TERRIBLE WEAPON.

THUS HE DECIDED TO *BURY* US, SO WE'D NEVER BE USED.

WHICH SEEMED VERY UNFAIR, SO WE DECIDED TO GO AHEAD AND *EXPLODE* OURSELVES.

HE MADE TO *THROW* US FROM HIS WORLD AS WE DETONATED--

--BUT REALIZED WE WERE NOT FLUNG FAR ENOUGH. THAT WE WOULD STILL ANNIHILATE ALL LIFE ON HIS PLANET.

UNLESS HE *SLOWED* OUR ERUPTION. UNLESS HE UTILIZED HIS POWER TO PSYCHICALLY HOLD US TOGETHER.

WHICH WOULD ONLY WORK FROM *WITHIN.*

"IT APPEARED JUST AFTER THE WAR, RIGHT?"

THING ABOUT WARS, THEY TEND TO GET PEOPLE A LITTLE PREOCCUPIED.

I SUSPECT THEY SIMPLY DIDN'T *NOTICE* IT UNTIL *AFTER* THE BATTLE.

KO-MIR HAS BEEN TRAPPED INSIDE THAT EXPLOSION FOR MILLENNIA.

KEPT *ALIVE* AND *IN AGONY* BY THE ENERGIES FLOWING OVER HIM AND THROUGH HIM.

KEEPING THIS PLANET INTACT WHILE EVERYONE UPON IT HAS CURSED HIS NAME.

GOSH, AREN'T THEY ALL GOING TO BE EMBARRASSED WHEN THEY FIND OUT?

OH GEEZ. WE NEED TO GET HIM OUT. WE NEED TO SAVE HIM.

I KNOW. I KNOW, BUT, BILLY...THIS IS GOING TO *DESTROY* THEM.

THIS PLANET HAS REBUILT. THEY'VE *HEALED*... AND NOW THEY'LL LOSE THEIR SUN. THEIR *HOPE.*

ALAS, THE TRUTH DOES HAVE A HABIT OF POURING COLD WATER ON THINGS LIKE HOPE.

SEE, I KNEW YOU'D GET UPSET. I WANTED TO GET EVERYONE MICHELADAS. IT WOULD'VE SOFTENED THE BLOW.

THERE HAS TO BE A WAY TO GET HIM OUT WITHOUT KILLING HIM. WITHOUT DEPRIVING THIS WORLD OF ITS SUN.

LOKI. *HELP US.*

OH, VERY WELL.

I'D SUGGEST WE BE AS QUICK ABOUT IT AS WE CAN...

"...HE'S NO DOUBT IN AN AWFUL LOT OF PAIN UP THERE."

THE PALACE OF EMPEROR HULKLING.

KREE/SKRULL SPACE.

BILLY...

BILLY, YOU SHOULD GET TO BED.

GO SNUGGLE THY KING.

LOKI? I CAN'T.

WE'VE REACHED OUT TO MR. FANTASTIC, TO THE SCARLET WITCH...BUT NO ONE HAS BEEN ABLE TO COME UP WITH A WAY TO HELP KO-MIR YET.

I CAN'T STAND TO THINK OF HIM UP THERE.

BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW WE SAVE HIM AND THE SUN.

NO. OBVIOUSLY NOT.

THERE WAS NEVER A WAY.

WAIT... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

I LOVE YOU GUYS, YOU KNOW.

I KNEW YOU COULDN'T AND WOULDN'T BE COMPLICIT.

HE'S GONE.

YOU'RE WELCOME.

HRNN!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!

HE SHOULD HAVE DIED MILLENNIA AGO IN THE BATTLE THAT KILLED HALF HIS PLANET.

INSTEAD, HE GOT TO WATCH FROM ORBIT, IN AGONIZING PAIN, AS HIS KIN AND BRETHREN WERE SLAUGHTERED.

NO LONGER.

YOU *KILLED* HIM--YOU'LL HAVE PLUNGED KAVA INTO CHAOS!

HE WAS SO GLAD TO GO, IF THAT MAKES YOU FEEL ANY BETTER.

"I TOLD HIM WHAT I WAS GOING TO DO.

"THAT I WAS GOING TO TAKE THE WEAPON HE HAD MADE OFF HIS HANDS.

"YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THE RELIEF IN HIS EYES.

"GODS, HIS SATISFACTION IN HIS WATCH BEING OVER. HIS TASK AT AN END."

WHAT WERE YOU GOING TO DO, BILLY?

THERE WAS NO WAY TO SAVE HIM.

THAT SUN WAS A LIE.

TELL KAVA WHAT HAPPENED. WHY THEIR WORLD MUST GROW COLD AGAIN.

THEY MIGHT SUFFER FOR IT.

THEY MIGHT FALL APART AGAIN.

THEY MIGHT LOVE YOU AND TEDDY A LITTLE LESS FOR TELLING IT TO THEM...

...BUT THEN THEY CAN BUILD AGAIN ON A FOUNDATION OF *TRUTH.*

DAMN YOU, LOKI.

WHEN HAVE YOU EVER KNOWN A THING ABOUT THE *TRUTH?*

WELL. THAT COULD HAVE GONE BETTER.

BUT LET'S PUT YOU BACK TOGETHER, SAFE AND SOUND, HMM?

WE SEETHE.

WE SEETHE TO HEAR LOKI PRATTLE ON ABOUT *TRUTH.*

LOKI, WHO FRAMES HIS ACT AS ONE OF NOBLE ENDS-- THOUGH HE WAS HAPPY TO LET *US* ROT, FORGOTTEN, FROM THE DAWN OF TIME TILL ITS END.

LOKI, WHO HAS FRIENDS WHO INVITED HIM TO SLEEP IN A PALACE BED, THOUGH THEY KNEW HIS GREATEST CAPACITY WAS FOR BETRAYAL.

WE HAVE BEEN ENJOYING SOWING DISCORD. WE HAVE ENJOYED TEASING AND TORMENTING.

BUT NOW WE--THE SOULS OF THE *NAGLFAR*, THE UNLOVED DEAD OF THE OLD NORTH--NOW WE SEETHE.

AND WE WILL HAVE LOKI SUFFER.

NOW, WHERE'S THIS FINAL PIECE OF YOU?

MIDGARD. GODS, IT'S ALWAYS MIDGARD, ISN'T IT?

MIDGARD, INDEED.

IN THE HANDS OF THIS DELICIOUSLY AWFUL MAN, *MUCK MULLIGAN.*

MR. MULLIGAN HAS TURNED OUR THIRD SHARD INTO A WEAPON TOO. HE HAS BEEN TRYING TO *SELL* IT EVER SINCE.

THE ONLY PROBLEM BEING THAT EACH PERSON HE'S SHOWN IT TO HAS BEGUN BLEEDING FROM THE EYES AND DOING ALL SORTS OF TERRIBLE *SCREAMING.*

MUCK MULLIGAN IS NOTHING IF NOT TENACIOUS...

...BUT NOW LOKI IS COMING FOR US.

AND SO WE WHISPER INTO MUCK MULLIGAN'S EAR.

AND WE GUIDE HIM GENTLY TO OUR ENDS.

YOU KNOW, IT'S FUNNY. IT DOESN'T WORRY ME LIKE IT DOES OTHERS.

I'VE OFTEN BEEN TOLD I DON'T HAVE MUCH BY WAY OF A SOUL.

I'VE NEVER HAD ANYTHING TO LOVE OR CARE ABOUT, YOU SEE?

MAYBE IT'S SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT.

WHEN I HEARD YOU'D BROKEN OUT OF PRISON, SIR, I THOUGHT--THERE'S A MAN WHO MIGHT *GET IT.*

THIS HERE IS A WEAPON SO POWERFUL, PEOPLE CAN'T EVEN LOOK AT IT. SO I THOUGHT TO MYSELF, WHO ELSE BUT *YOU* WOULD HAVE THE CHOPS TO USE IT?

AND WHAT DO YOU *WANT* FOR THIS WEAPON OF YOURS, MULLIGAN?

I THOUGHT I WANTED MONEY, BUT...

...NOW, NO.

I JUST WANT TO SEE IF YOU CAN HANDLE IT...AND WHAT YOU'LL *DO* WITH IT...

...MR. BULLSEYE.

AND WHAT EXACTLY AM I MEANT TO DO WITH THIS?

THE TRUTH

WELL, YOU *READ* IT, OF COURSE.

IT CONTAINS *TRUTHS.* TRUTHS PEOPLE DON'T WANT TO KNOW.

ONES THAT MAKE THEM SICK AND MAKE THEM BLEED.

TRUTHS THAT TEAR THEIR HEARTS APART, FROM WHAT I CAN TELL.

HMM.

WHAT IS IT?

WHAT DOES IT TELL YOU?

YES, MR. BULLSEYE. WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF US?

I-IT...

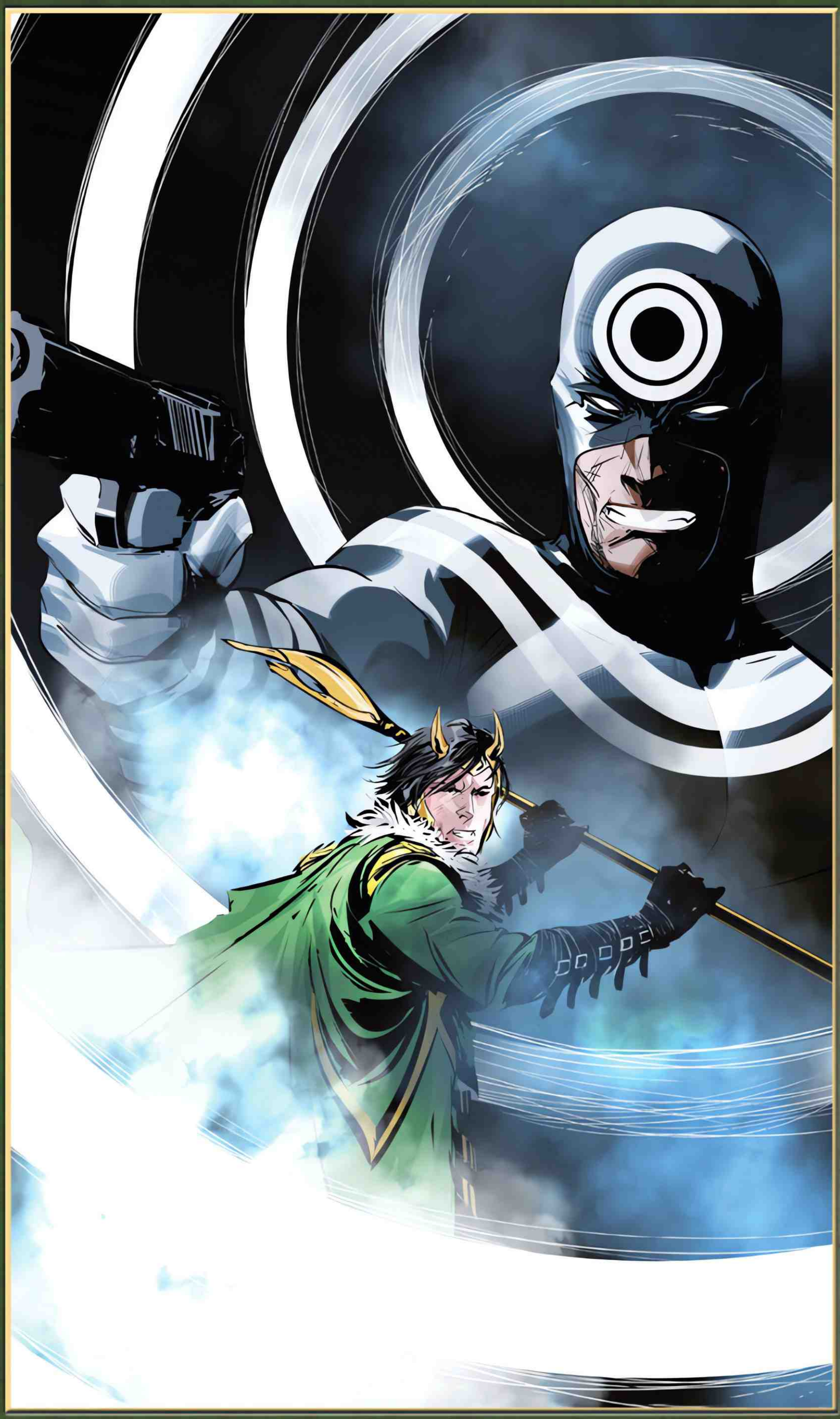
...IT TELLS ME THAT THIS BOOK AND I ARE GOING TO TEAR THIS WORLD A NEW #$%&HOLE.

HA HA HA HA!

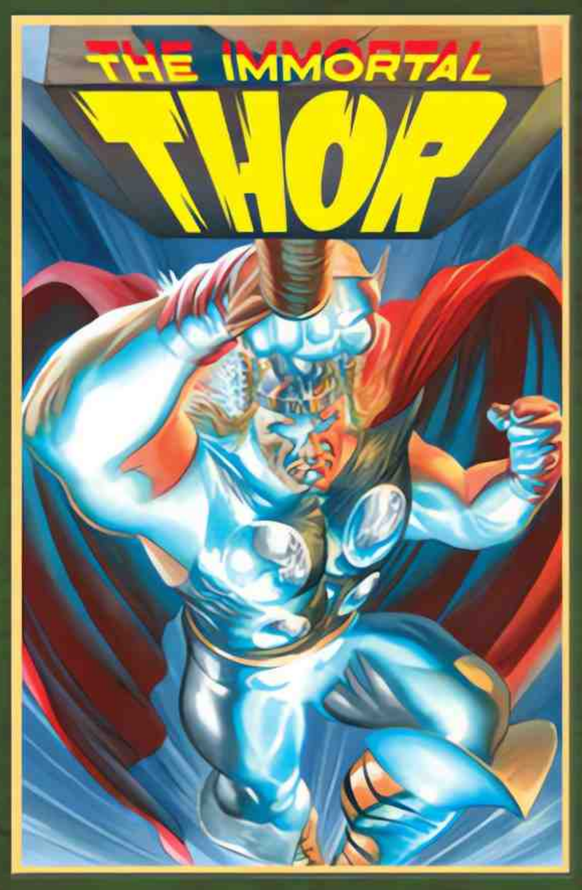
UGH.

WHY DO I HAVE THE DISTINCT FEELING THIS IS ALL GOING TO END IN *MELODRAMA*?

NEXT: IT ALL ENDS (IN MELODRAMA)



AND DON'T MISS...



IMMORTAL THOR #1
BY AL EWING AND
MÁRTIN CÓCCOLO

ALLIGATOR LOKI #1
BY ALYSSA WONG
AND BOB QUINN

SCARLET WITCH #8
BY STEVE ORLANDO AND
LORENZO TAMMETTA

NEXT ISSUE:
FINALE ON MIDGARD

Want to see more Loki? Then we want to hear from you! Write us at **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM** and mark your letters **"OKAY TO PRINT"**!